

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 20, 2008**

PRESENT: Diane Ripple, Jim Pearson, Ron Pupp, Caitlen Daniels, Ed Cohen, Barb Holtz, Joe Vitale, Barbara Vaughn Peterson, Don Harris, Meg Kasprowitz, Sara Carpenter, John Schiraj, Kurt Gehrke, Polina Makievsky, Nichole Hunkins, Faith Holley-Beal

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Slesar, Antwayne Robertson, Jesus Mireles, Eve Altizer

Ron Pupp called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and introductions were exchanged.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe Vitale made a motion, seconded by Don Harris to approve the minutes of October 16, 2008. The motions were voted on and carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Joe Vitale reported on the written report that he submitted about various committees. He informed the committee that the 2009 Health and Human Services budget passed. A question and answer discussion occurred afterwards.

ISSUE SEGMENT – AGENCY SHARING

Norris Adolescent Center – www.norriscenter.org. Don Harris reported the Norris Adolescent Center has and continues to provide some residential care. The center has 48 beds, 18 are dedicated to the three group homes on the campus, which is between Bid Bend and Mukwonago. To date 20 youth are in Outpatient Mental Health program, and 21 youth currently attend the Norris public school. In addition, the Center is in process of its Strategic Planning which is done every couple of years. Don Harris noted that we are all faced with some of the same challenges each year with the shrinking of the budget and services, and Norris is looking at revisioning and retooling back to its core services, and is open to collaboratively working with other interested agencies as well. Traditionally Norris has served adolescent males ages 12-18, but just last semester opened up the programs to females, siblings and families. The target population for the Norris school is for residents in k-12.

PPAC – Prevention and Protection of Abused Children and the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin are now located together in the Parent's Place building. PPAC's two core services are Supervised Visitation and Parents Place. Supervised visits are held in the lower level of the facility where it's designed like a home environment setting, and staff can observe how well parents interact with their children. Parents Place offers between 10-15 different parenting programs throughout the year, for example, Parenting through Depression, and almost all programs include free child care. A new brochure for Parents Place will be coming soon. PPAC

has received a small grant to do two Mandatory Reporting Trainings for Child Abuse and Neglect at no cost. The next session is December 5, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Born Learning – The Born Learning program is a community impact initiative funded by United Way. It provides information to parents and grandparents for children ages 0-5 with the best possible early learning skills that parents can do with their children. Barb Holtz explained that a lot of scientific research has gone into this program; simple doable action steps that parents can do with their children (i.e., singing, reading to increase literacy and school readiness). Barb's focus has been speaking to school districts and performing lunch and learn sessions through the year.

Healthy Families – Healthy Families is a child abuse prevention program that offers in home support to new parents in Waukesha County. New families are assigned a family support worker and are screened through area hospitals. The program is completely voluntary working with families with children ages 0-5; offer parenting education, and ages and stages of developmental delays are identified and referred to the Birth to Three program. Children also receive follow-up checkups and immunizations, and there are wrap around community resources and specialists available for families who may need special services like AODA or depression. Healthy Families completed their health accreditation recertification and are good till the year 2012. They are also linked up with UW-Milwaukee and Healthy Families of America. Healthy Families only fundraiser is the annual Fashion Show, and will be applying for a Fatherhood grant.

Cornerstone Counseling Services – Cornerstone Counseling is a full service mental health and substance abuse agency with five area clinics; 1 in Waukesha which Ed Cohen is the Clinic Director of, and four other clinics in the surrounding counties. There are over 100 treatment providers that accept Medicaid, Medicare, and many different insurance plans which they are able to triage. Population served is birth to geriatric and offer a full range of services for behavioral problems to severe mental illness. Cornerstone Counseling prides itself on delivering the highest quality of care, services, and referral sources to you and your family. Ed Cohen distributed updated directories and brochures to all. The topic/service of methadone quality addiction management was suggested by represented agencies that they would like to see/hear more about in the community. Further suggestions can be directed to Ed.

United Way – United Way in Waukesha County has over 76 different programs with 36 agencies throughout the community. One of the community impact initiatives is to have healthy kids succeed. Three components under that initiative are:

- Through educational workshops geared for parents on various topics.
- Family activities geared toward camping, outings, ball game or arts and crafts working together on projects,
- Intervention piece for mediation through Wisconsin Community Services.

Another program that is geared toward the aging population is the Caregiver Support, helping caregivers find support for their elderly parent. A new program that just started in August 2008 is the Financial Stability program. This program is to assist hard working individuals with building their savings.

United Cerebral Palsy – UCP offers respite support services to families in a variety of ways including:

- Respite Care – support on an hourly, overnight or multiple day basis.
- Respitality – support for families facing a crisis situation, assistance for a special occasion get away weekend.
- Respite and Recreation Club – fun filled evening for children with a disability and their siblings.

UCP is currently serving 300 families with a waiting list of 70. With some of the adult population theoretically moving to Family Care, the waiting list should be eliminated. UCP is also working on providing services for children with mental health issues who are suspect for abuse and neglect or who are in need. Another piece of UCP is the Home Visit Community Resources program

CARE Center – The Center is a multi-agency collaboration that will ensure that child victims of abuse in Waukesha County receive coordinated services that are safe, compassionate, professional, child-friendly, and timely. The CARE Center provides mental health counseling to traumatized children and a team of specialized therapists/forensic staff are available to meet the psychological needs of the child and the family as well. Over sixty clients are either on T-19 or are low income. This year only 7 out of the 70 children that came to the center had to testify in court.

The Women's Center – The Women's Center provides safety and support to women and their families. The Center offers a 24/7 crisis line, transitional living program, individual and group counseling for children, family support program, parent and support groups, employment program, legal advocacy assistance with restraining orders, community education, etc. A couple of new programs for 2009 include a survive and thrive program for teens who have been sexually assaulted, and domestic violence for Spanish speaking individuals.

La Casa de Esperanza – La Casa de Esperanza began in 1966. Its mission is to provide opportunities for low-income individuals to achieve full social and economic participation in society, with emphasis on the Hispanic population. Since then, La Casa has expanded and now offers five fundamental programs. The Children, Family and Youth Program includes a thriving Early Childhood Education Center and a state of the art technology lab. Workforce Development provides comprehensive employment assistance to low-income people seeking economic self-sufficiency. La Casa Village I and II offers affordable and private apartments to low-income seniors and disabled individuals. The Weatherization Program identifies energy waste and provides cost-effective, energy saving measures and education to low-income residential households. La Casa Clinic specializes in mental health and alcohol and drug treatment programs. Other auxiliary services is an affordable fitness center, a financial literacy piece providing tax assistance, and a full service restaurant that is open to the public. All profits go to support the mission based program. The first craft fair will be on December 5-6, 2008.

Waukesha Police – Officer Gehrke has been with the Crime Prevention unit for the past two years. Every two years the officers are rotated back to the road which helps the officers learn more about the resources in the community.

Waukesha County Adolescent & Family Services Division – Peter Slesar is the Manager of the Adolescent & Family Services Division. The Department provides a variety of direct and collaborative services to families and their children. They also provide community-based services to adolescents who have been placed on supervision by the Juvenile Court, or who are at risk of coming to the Court's attention. Services are provided to adolescents and their families where severe family conflicts, truancy, uncontrollability, substance abuse, delinquency, or severe emotional disturbance may be at issue. Every attempt is made to maintain family unity by using a community based services model including intensive family treatment and day treatment programming.

Addiction Resource Council – The Addiction Resource Council is committed to serving the residents of Waukesha County by providing alcohol and other drug prevention education, intervention, assessment, and referral services, as well as leadership; for collaboration among institutions, organizations and community-based agencies. Addiction: Why Can't They Just Stop and Get Your Loved One Sober are just a couple of the ongoing educational lecture series that are available.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin – The mission of Children's Service Society is to build, sustain and enhance a nurturing environment for children. Some of the programs offered are Adoption, Child and Family Counseling, Serving Teens at Risk, Respite Care, and Treatment Foster Care in Waukesha County.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Partnerships for Children's Mental Health of Waukesha County sponsors a monthly parent support group for families that include a child with emotional, behavioral or mental health difficulties. These support meetings meet the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The partnership is also looking for assistance in establishing a support group website. A new multi-systems workgroup was established to look at how do we best serve children in JIPS, CHIPS, and in the mental health system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Pupp announced that James Pearson with the Addiction Resource Council will be the new Chair of CAFSAC in 2009, and Diane Ripple from the Women's Center was nominated as co-Chair. The Committee members thanked Ron for his leadership and support in 2008.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned a little after 10:00 a.m.

Approved on _____
(Date)